

VRS in Public and Private Sectors

3728. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers who have already opted for VRS as a part of liberalisation in the Central and State Public Sector and Private Sector; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that some managements like State Bank of India under the pressure from the Association has not accepted the VRS which has been opted by the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Around 2.7 lakh employees have opted for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) since the inception of this scheme and upto March, 2000. There is no information available with the Government regarding the workers who have opted for VRS in the private sector.

(b) As part of the terms & conditions of the VRS offered to banks employees, it is the prerogative of the Bank's management either to accept the request for VRS or to reject the same depending upon the requirement of the bank.

Conference on Child Labour

3729. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national conference to review the programmes for elimination of Child Labour was held in New Delhi on 22nd January, 2001;

(b) if so, what are the main observation and suggestions made therein; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A National Conference on

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RAJYA SABHA

Child Labour was held at New Delhi on 22nd January 2001. The Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the Conference.

(b) The Conference, *inter-alia*, resolved that concerted action should be taken in a time bound manner for elimination of child labour from hazardous occupations/processes. For achieving this, all Government agencies, research institutions, Panchayati Raj Institutions, employers, trade unions, members of the press bar associations, NGOs etc. should work together and establish synergies so that with their collective resources, the problem of child labour is addressed in a holistic way. The enforcement machinery for implementation of legal provisions should be trained, sensitized and strengthened where necessary and there should be strict enforcement of child labour related Acts.

(c) Necessary action has already been initiated.

**Termination of services of employees of M/S. Mekaster Group
and Associated Companies**

3730. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that M/s Mekaster Group and their associated companies having Headquarter's at Ansal Bhavan, New Delhi have terminated the services of several employees during the last one year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of employees have not received their Provident Fund dues on account of default by the above Group of Companies;

(c) if so, what are the details of the employees terminated/removed and the Provident Fund due to each of them as on 31st March, 2001; and

(d) the steps being taken to recover the employees contribution from the company?